

DIRTY APES



BY R. DELUNA

ENERGY

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percent this summer. Some customers can expect hikes of about 30 percent.

Carol Biedrzycki of the Texas Ratepayers Organization to Save Energy said consumers could do several easy things to save energy and keep costs down:

- Make sure existing air conditioning units are running properly. Air conditioners are a key source of energy consumption and expense in the hot weather.
- "It's worth having somebody come out and check," she said.
- Move the thermostat higher while still keeping it comfortable inside. A higher tempera-

ture means less energy spent cooling off. She warned against turning off the A/C.

"Being indoors without air conditioning in severe heat is not healthy, it's not safe," Biedrzycki said.

The PUC has adopted a rule to protect poor consumers in extreme heat. Utilities are prohibited from disconnecting service for late bills for at least two days after the National Weather Service issues a heat advisory.

• Keep the sun out of the house. Blinds should be angled to reflect the sun away from the room, Biedrzycki said.

• Consumers can call the local utilities about any conservation programs or advice they can offer.

The Fantastico Chronicles

BY J. GOLDFLUTE



HECTOR Y PEDRO

Adrian



CLOSET

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care the child needs.

Child Protective Services spokeswoman Marleigh Meisner said Atkinson's statement does not mean that Lauren will automatically be placed with the Kavanaughs, but it does speed up the placement process.

"We are exploring the possibility of placing Lauren with the

Kavanaughs," she said.

Lauren, now hospitalized at Children's Medical Center in Dallas, is able to talk and walk, but is still very ill, Meisner said.

Meanwhile, CPS has placed five other children taken from the home in foster care.

Barbara Atkinson and Kenneth Ray Atkinson remained at the Dallas County Jail on Wednesday. Barbara was being held in lieu of \$100,000 bond. Police said Kenneth Ray

Atkinson faces charges of probation violation in Ellis County and would not be released on bond.

The Kavanaughs had arranged for a private adoption and took custody of Lauren at birth on April 13, 1993.

Atkinson was a friend of the second wife of Bill Kavanaugh's brother-in-law.

But soon afterward, Barbara Atkinson, then known as Barbara Calhoun, demanded the

girl back.

The Kavanaughs were able to retain exclusive rights to Lauren for about nine months, but the courts limited their contact thereafter.

After eight months of judicial struggles, a second judge ordered the girl's return to her birth mother.

Bill Kavanaugh said his attorney had failed to permanently terminate Atkinson's parental rights.

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